

REMARKS

All pending claims are rejected under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by EP 0 992 187 A1.

The figures cited in the Office Action as grounds for anticipation is Fig. 4.

Fig. 4 illustrates the patentable distinction of the present invention over this prior art reference. Fig. 4 includes outer frames for holding cutting elements 19. When in the transport position, these outer elements fold to a position that blocks the view of the driver. The present invention folds its outer frames to a position that does not block the view of the driver. By reciting this structural limitation, new claim 15 is patentable over the prior art of record.

With regard to the previously existing claims, claim 1 recites that the intermediate and outer supports can be pivoted in opposite directions. The Office Action is silent on this limitation. Clearly the frames or the support elements (18, 19) in the '187 reference both rotate in the same direction at the same time. It is clearly inherent in claim 1 as originally claimed that the structural recitation that these elements can be "pivoted in opposite directions" means relative to one another, when raised from a working position.

In order for the claim recitations of "pivots" and of "pivoting in opposite directions" to both have meaning, the final claim limitation, ignored in the Office Action, must be taken to mean that the intermediate support elements pivot in opposite directions relative to one another. Because of this inherency, this amendment does not narrow.


The limitations in claim 1 are not added to respond to the Office Action. Rather, these amendments are made to clarify and particularly point out inherent patentable structure in a translation from the original German claims. Claim 1, both as originally stated and as amended, is patentable over the cited prior art because of the "pivoted in opposite directions limitation."

Conclusion

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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